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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3222

September 21, 2004

Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

By Fax and Mail: (202) 456-6620

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to request that you issue a Major Disaster Declaration for the severe storm that hit New York State on August 30, 2004, which resulted in heavy flooding and extensive property damage. Governor George E. Pataki sent a request for this declaration yesterday after inventorying the substantial public and private property damage that the storm inflicted throughout a sixteen-county area of New York State.

As the federal representative for some of the impacted counties, including Sullivan, Orange, Ulster and Delaware Counties, I can attest firsthand to the tremendous damage wrought by the violent thunderstorms on August 30. I personally toured the damaged areas along the Pine Kill Creek in Sullivan County, where flooding displaced many local residents, resulted in millions of dollars in personal property losses, and caused extensive damage to local roads and bridges.

The residents of the impacted communities have now waited more than three weeks for federal assistance, which is critical to helping these families rebuild, repair and move on with their lives. I hope that you will sign the Major Disaster Declaration immediately in order to make available federal resources to assist the many struggling families and to help the local communities deal with the unexpected costs of repairing their damaged public infrastructure.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information or I can be of any assistance. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


Maurice D. Hinchey

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